



Term 1 - Issue #1

Maleny Independent School



HIGHLIGHTS:
EXCURSIONS
INTO NATURE
Where we explore
our relationship
with the
environment.



Welcome to 2019

To all our amazing Maleny Independent School families

The first three weeks of Term 1 have been full of outings and excursions into our environment as we discover a deeper connection to landscape, culture and our place within it. We are forging bonds and becoming a strong team, acknowledging the role that teams play in project-based learning environments. This stands us in good stead for the many exciting projects ahead, with the first being rolled out this week!

Key Dates for Term 1

1

WED 20 FEB

Swimming at Maleny Pool - Remember togs, towel and sunscreen

2

SAT 23 FEB

Co-Op Garden Celebration & Opening of Learning Shelter
10am-4pm

3

THUR 21 MAR

Harmony Day
Outing into Community

CONTACT DETAILS

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Staffing

Unfortunately our energetic Teaching Principal Gilroy has aggravated a pre-existing injury and will be out of action for a while. We are grateful for Sam Chen, already working with us Tuesday-Thursdays, who will be stepping in to the leadership role at the school with strong support from Row, Leeza and Paul.



We also welcome Dr Allyson Williams, a climatologist and teacher who will be working with Sam during this period.

Term Project

Start Local, Think Global...

The first inquiry based project for 2019 will be rolled out this week. Encompassing elements of english, humanities and social sciences (HASS), economics and business, digital technologies and media; the line of inquiry will be:

Using 21st century technologies, how can the environment of Maleny and it's surrounds be better represented and communicated in a meaningful way to the global community?



Science and Digital Technologies with DASHX

Shocking Science!

This term we focus our scientific learning on electricity as we explore the theme of 'Shocking Science!'. This includes exploration into:

- People Power. Watts
- Build-a-Battery. Electric Potential
- Do Pickles Make Good Wires? Conductivity
- Mix Water & Electricity! Conductors vs Insulators
- Free Energy? Forms of Energy
- Switch It Up. Transformation of Energy
- Add It Up! Series and Parallel
- Squishy Xplosions!?! Circuits

In Digital Technologies we are busy creating designs for laser cutting later in the term.

We are extremely fortunate to have Mike Dash along on this journey with us. He continues to inspire and engage the students every Monday, with the amazing Maria joining in to support extension and remediation where needed. Mike's passion for all things science is contagious! Check our school link on his website: <https://xtremestem.com.au/mis.html> for more DashX fun!

English

Behavioural Reading

Literacy is fundamental to learning. Its importance cannot be overstated. On that note, our lovely Maria is working one on one with the students to assess their current reading level prior to the school embarking on a 'Behavioural Reading' journey.

Behavioural Reading is a comprehensive program of neurological techniques that supports good reading behaviours including comprehension, fluency, working memory, automaticity, essential sequencing, pace and spelling.

Maria will check in with the students again after completion and provide feedback.

Health & PE

Non-violent conflict resolution through Martial Arts?

We are grateful for parent Roderick Johnson and locals Nala Johnstone and Nathan Arrowsmith who shared their passion for martial arts - Silat Perisai Diri and Rhee Taekwondo - with our students over the last few weeks.

A common misconception of martial arts is that they promote violent behaviour but in fact the opposite is true. Martial arts teach children peaceful, non-violent conflict resolution skills with an emphasis on self-defence and avoidance of physical conflict.



Swimming

With more hot weather forecast, swimming lessons at the Maleny Pool couldn't come at a better time. Lessons start on the **20th of February** and will continue every Wednesday for the remainder of Term 1. Remember to pack togs, towels and sunscreen.

The Arts

Exploring relationships

In week 2 we went to Ewan Maddock Dam to explore our multi-sensory relationship with the environment and how that resonates within each of us, embedding our learning through touch, sound and sight.

Economics & Business

Our young entrepreneurs continue to tap into the local bush tucker market by harvesting and selling bunya nuts through the CO-OP!

Maleny Organics

The students will be relaunching their business 'Maleny Organics' next Term so be prepared for some seriously nice organic products that will make you feel good inside and out.



GOT A QUESTION OR CONCERN?

We invite anyone with comments, concerns or queries to drop in for a chat, email us, call to arrange a time to talk to one of us or leave a note in the suggestion box next to Tash's desk. Information on how the school manages complaints can be found in our Dispute Resolution Policy located on the school website.

ABSENT FOR THE DAY?

If your child is unable to attend school for the day we ask that you contact us on 5494 2352 before 9am. Please note that students with fever or gastro should be excluded for 24 hours after symptoms stop.

Mathematics

Students have been refreshing their mathematical memory over the last few weeks in preparation for more challenging times ahead.

Many of you may have heard about the amazing algebra session led by Gil... Feedback from the students (and even one adult watching who shall remain nameless), included "Finally, I get it!" and "That was easy-peasy!".

When taught well, maths should make sense and be fun. Thanks Gil!



Excursions, Outings & Incursions

A number of excursions, outings and incursions are planned for the year to align with and support the curriculum, our projects and our theme for the year of 'Relationships'.

We have already been on two excursions - To Ewan Maddock Dam to explore the natural and built environment, cultural heritage and natural arts; and a beach excursion to develop our team building skills.

We have also continued our adventures into community, learning more about environmentally sustainable businesses in our town.

Students will be participating in Harmony Day, Wood Expo - where we have been gifted the opportunity to BUILD OUR OWN CANOE!!' - and Kids in Action again in 2019. Stay tuned for more information over the next few weeks.

HOUSEKEEPING

Supervision

Please note that there is no supervision at the school before 8:15am or after 3:15pm each school day. The responsibility for students outside of these hours falls to parents and guardians. Parents and guardians are also responsible for students undertaking after school dance classes from the time that school ends until the time that dance classes commence.

Clothing

We ask students to please ensure they are wearing clothing appropriate to the climate and the range of activities offered at the school including enclosed shoes for outings, something warm for cooler days and neat attire for outings into town.

Devices & Social Media

We have been implementing our no-phone policy since day 1 and the students get it! Phones are secured away for the day to encourage creativity and imaginative play, direct communication and outdoor time.

We acknowledge that out of school mobile device access and use does not fall into the realm of school control. However, these activities can negatively affect relationships between our students and even between our students and friends at other schools. This is a mine field that we will continue to work through with students, to support informed decision-making regarding the sharing of images and text, and the consequences of exclusionary actions. We seek parental input here and would appreciate any suggestions on how we can better support the students both in and out of school regarding respectful communication and device use.

Curriculum

The Australian and Queensland Curriculum requirements are intense. Comprehensive unit content descriptions and assessment standards can be found at:

<https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/>; and
http://docs.acara.edu.au/resources/Information_for_parents_years_7_-_8.pdf

In Term 1 students will undertake learnings within the core units of English, Mathematics, Science and Digital Tech with Mike Dash, Health and Physical Education (HPE), Humanities and Social Science (History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship and Economics and Business - HASS) and The Arts.

Fund Raising

Fund raising can provide valuable funds in a small school environment. Parents who are happy to organise approved fundraising events, such as a movie night, have the potential to raise some of their term fees through these events.

The role of the school board is to approve fund raising activities to ensure that any activities conducted under the banner of the school align with our core values and vision.

Please note: prior to any fund raising event being undertaken, each group involved must have agreement on how the proceeds will be allocated to each parent account, for example - split 50:50.



PERMISSION SLIPS

With the first few excursions now under our belt, we are looking at ways we can better organise ourselves for future outings. Firstly, we recognise that we need to give our parents and guardians as much notice as possible, particularly to ensure that all permission slips are returned and students are prepared for the day. We will continue to work on this with better forward planning and notification.

If you are still struggling to return permission slips prior to an excursion please let us know if there is an alternative way that works for you, for example: filling in the form, taking a photo of it and then emailing it to: admin@malenyindependentschool.com.au.

The last thing we want is for students to miss out on the adventures and learnings to be had on outings and excursions.



School Calendar

Important dates to remember...

- 20 February - Swimming 12:30pm Wednesdays
- 23 February - Co-Op Garden Celebration
- 21 March - Harmony Day Outing
- 5 April - Last day of Term 1
- 22 April - Easter Monday Public Holiday
- 6 May - Labour Day Public Holiday
- 14-16 May - NAPLAN for Years 7 & 9
- 31 May - Maleny Show Day Public Holiday
- Term 3 - School Camp

Staff & Volunteers

We would like to acknowledge the help provided by our wonderful team. This school would not be possible without them!

It takes a village...

- Gilroy Hatcher - Teaching Principal
- Samuel Chen - Lead Teacher
- Maria Dodd - Teacher
- Mike Dash - Science and Technologies
- Kirsty Sziron - Classroom Support Aide
- Mikala Johnson - Classroom Support Aide
- Leeza Hinze - Arts Specialist
- Natasha (Tash) Driscoll - School Manager
- Bernie Dwyer - ITC Support Contractor
- Lisa Falcongren - MYOB/Bookkeeping

OUR SCHOOL - OPPORTUNITIES UPON THE RANGE	
 <h1 style="margin: 0;">2019 Key Dates</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">Maleny Independent School</p>	
Term 1 - 10 Weeks (Tuesday 29th Jan - Friday 5th April)	
Monday 28th January 2019	Australia Day Public Holiday
Tuesday 29th January 2019	First Day - Term 1
Friday 5th April 2019	Last Day - Term 1
2 Week Holiday	
Term 2 - 10 Weeks (Tuesday 23rd April - Friday 28th June)	
Thursday 22nd April 2019	Easter Monday Public Holiday
Tuesday 23rd April 2019	First Day - Term 2
Monday 6th May 2019	Labour Day Public Holiday
Friday 31st May 2019	Maleny Show Day Public Holiday
Friday 28th June 2019	Last Day - Term 2
2 Week Holiday	
Term 3 - 9 Weeks (Monday 15th July - Friday 20th September)	
Monday 15th July 2019	First Day - Term 3
CAMP	
Friday 13th September 2019	Last Day - Term 3
3 Week Holiday	
Term 4 - 10 Weeks (Tuesday 8th October - Friday 13th December)	
Monday 7th October 2019	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
Tuesday 8th October 2019	First Day - Term 4
Tuesday 21st October 2019	Pupil Free Day - Professional Development
Friday 13th December 2019	Last Day - Term 4

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our new staff have been busy this term getting up to speed on all those things that it takes to run a school and participating in essential training including ISQ professional development courses for new business managers, governance and finance, Child Protection and First Aid.

During semester 1 we will be practicing our emergency response procedures including evacuation and lock-down drills.

SCHOOL POLICIES

The School's core policies can be found on our website: <http://malenyindependentschool.com.au>. Alternatively, copies can be obtained at school.

- Child Protection Policy and Child Risk Management Strategy
- Dispute Resolution Policy and Procedure
- Enrolment Policy and Fee Structure and Payment Policy
- ...among many others...

